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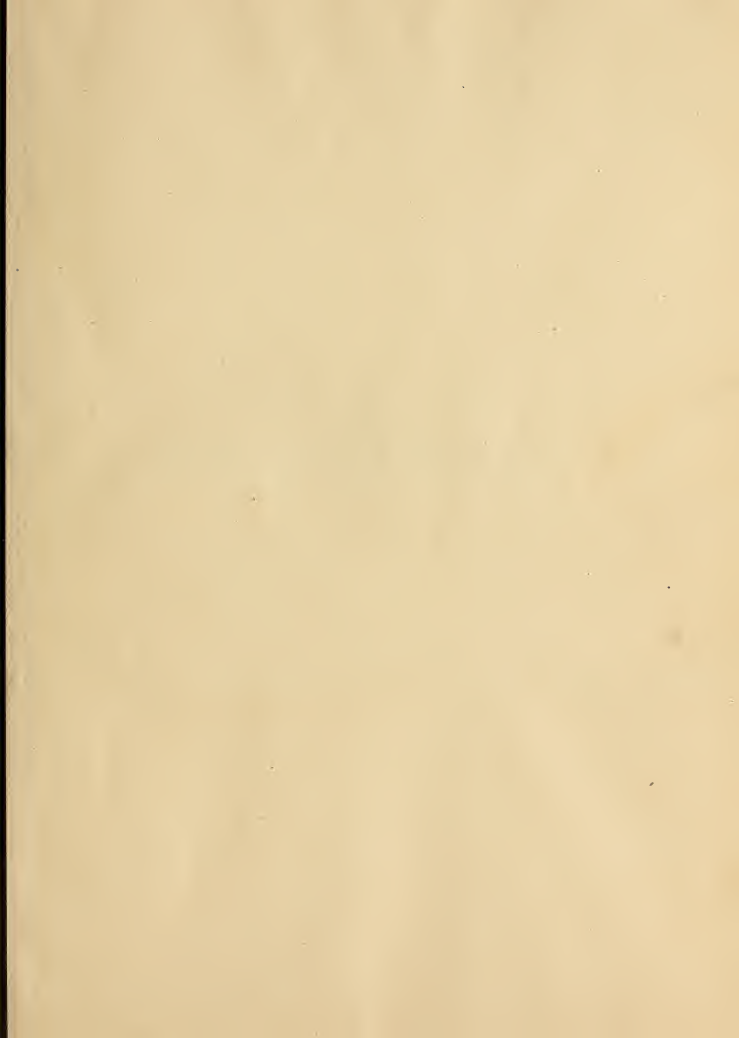


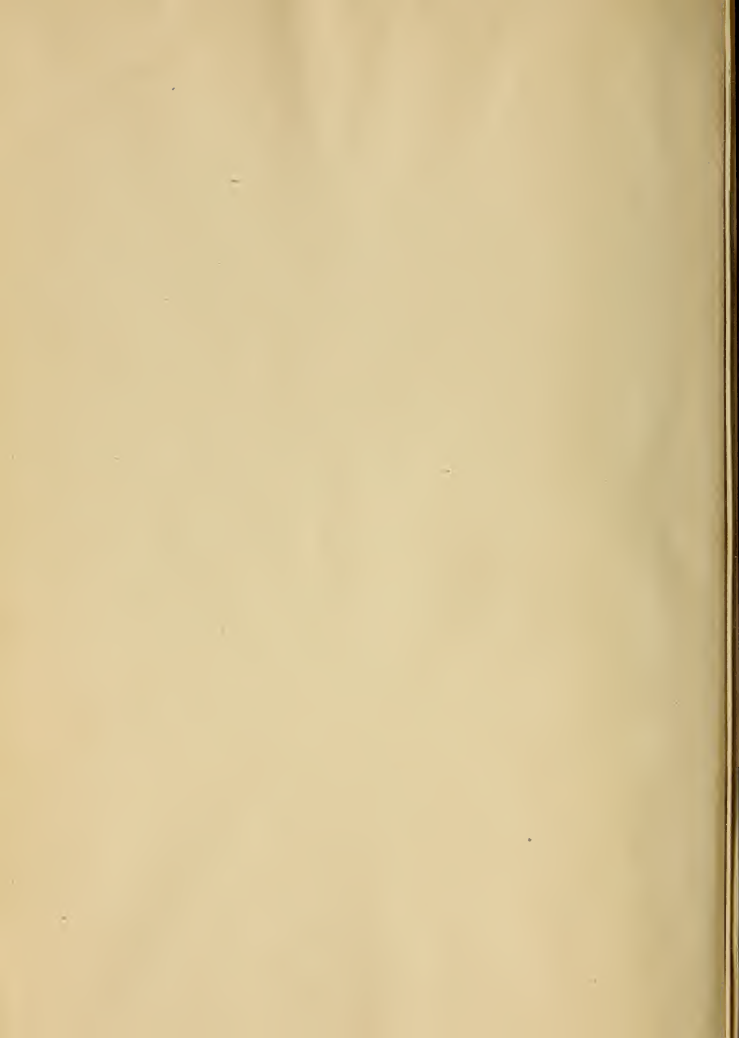
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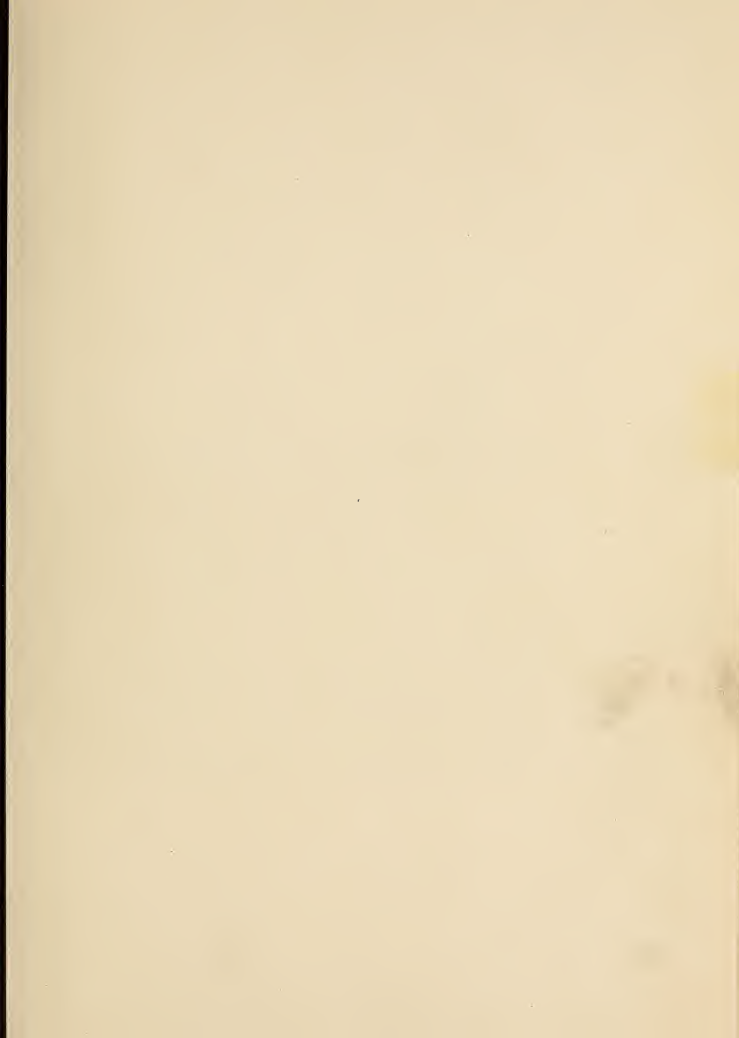




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THE  
FUSSER'S BOOK







**A**NGLE for a lady's hobby, and when you've hooked it play her. If the lady in turn angles for yours don't jump at the bait.



# THE FUSSER'S BOOK

*(NEW AND LARGER EDITION)*

RULES BY  
ANNA ARCHBALD  
AND  
GEORGINA JONES

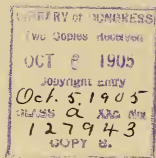
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FLORENCE WYMAN



NEW YORK  
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**T**O rejoice in life because it gives you the chance to fuss, and to laugh, and to study the moon; to be satisfied with your natural gifts in this direction, but not content till you have made the most of them; to despise nothing but rudeness and cautiousness, and to fear nothing but bungling; to be governed by policy rather than by instinctive admiration; to covet nothing that is your neighbor's except that which you want and he has; to think seldom of your failures, often of your successes, and to spend as much time as you deem wise in a feminine atmosphere—these are little pointers in the golden book of fussing.

## Preface to the Second Edition

**T**HESE rules are useful. Remember them a few years, but forget them before they have a chance to warp your character.

THE AUTHORS.

## RULES

**I**N the long run magnanimity to a rival pays better than a petty triumph. All may be fair in love, but much that is fair is foolish.

**W**HEN you feel like being kittenish consult your scales, your mirror, and the family Bible. A pocket Venus in the bloom of youth can sometimes make it win.

**N**OBODY likes to be patronized.  
A sense of superiority seldom  
goes with superiority of sense.

**A** HAND-CLASP which says "At  
last" at greeting and "So soon"  
at parting goes far toward making  
up for a paucity of ideas. (This is  
respectfully submitted with apologies  
to Mme Récamier).



**R**EMEMBER always to “keep your eyes in the boat”!





**D**ON'T be daunted by her college degree. The intellectual girl may be dying to be fussed.

**B**E not easily discouraged. Where there's a will there's a woman, but where there's a won't there's a way.

**Y**OU can seldom make a girl admit she is wrong, even if you are tactless enough to try. Besides—what's the use?

**L**ADIES, above everything don't clutch! If the guest seems in danger of departing, rather help to speed him. You may be able to retain him by octopus methods, but do you really want to?

**I**F at some informal gathering a lady is engaging you in conversation more or less apart don't bob up and down every time a new person enters the room. It spoils the harmony of the composition.

**P**IGEON-HOLE your different ladies accurately. Better omit all retrospective references than attribute phases, clothes or traits to the wrong girl.

**B**E careful not to swim out too far. Sentiment has dangerous currents.

**W**HY treat him like a dog and then complain because he acts the part?

**I**F you realize that you are the gooseberry don't rub it in. He's probably just as unhappy about it as you are.

**T**RY to leave while the conversation is in full swing: it gives people the impression that you are a person of many affairs.



**B**EWARE of too long calls. Although it's true you've been brought up to believe that some girls think a beau in the parlor worth two in the hair, this maxim may not hold good after midnight.



**A**VOID the sentimental. Nothing but conceit can prevent a man from being bored by a sentimental woman unless he loves her.

**W**HEN a man has a dance with you it is poor policy to ask him to share it with another fellow. Split dances are like split peas; nothing but a poor substitute for the real thing.

**A** MAN worth fussing knows something. Find out what it is and let him talk about it, instead of luring him into depths where he can only tread water.

**T**IME is fleeting: only a very accomplished Fusser can make it appear anything but foolish after a certain age.



**Y**OU can't begin too young. Better  
be a novice at twelve than at  
twenty.

**L**OVE of praise is universal, but  
modesty is the best policy.

**O**CCASIONALLY stock phrases  
may go disguised as conversation, but girls are forever comparing notes.

**C**ULTIVATE her father. He may prove a staunch ally or a subtle foe. Perhaps she has trained him, but don't depend upon it.

**B**E wise in your admiration lest she question your taste or your sincerity.



**D**O occasional penance: it is good for the soul. Make the saddest girl in the room feel that she is the most attractive while you are talking to her; or dance during an evening with at least one "ice-wagon."



**A** WELL chosen necktie smooths  
the pathway of approach.

**F**OLLOW up a good impression.  
Never allow it to grow cold.

**M**OST girls prefer a man with  
a present to a man with a  
past.

**D**ON'T hesitate to learn from a rival. Your adept fusser should know a good thing when he sees it.

**U**SE jealousy with a light hand and never in public; let it suggest solicitude but not monopoly.

**M**AKE him feel that he is sounding hidden depths. Even the Sphinx seemed common-place after a man had guessed her riddle.

**N**EVER insist on knowing her reason. Very likely she hasn't one.

**A**NYBODY with a purse can send flowers. Your true Fusser looks to his harmonies and matches up a frock, a sentiment or a pair of eyes.

**N**EVER say die! She is not lost this side the altar.

**D**ON'T hang around her when she is otherwise engaged, gazing at her as if in a trance. It is a ruse that makes you look silly.



**I**F you feel that the jealousy game is absolutely necessary to your ultimate success, go ahead, but don't make a confidante of your assistant. You may reap your harvest more rapidly, but there is always some embarrassing aftermath.

**I**T were wiser to be left at the post than to run a poor second.

**Y**OU may have been his inspiration, but beware of assuming a saintly pose before him just because he says so.

**W**HEN she asks you for advice remember that in ninety-nine times out of a hundred what she really wants is sympathy.



**F**USS the chaperone, even at the expense of a tête-à-tête with "the only one." The longest way round is — sometimes — the shortest way home.



**L**EAD her gently but firmly away from your weaknesses. She may some time enjoy forgiving them, but they make a poor beginning.

**H**YPOCRISY, thou art a jewel! Pick out what you and the girl know to be her worst points and ask her if she minds your mentioning your admiration of them.

**N**OTHING is more flattering to the modern girl than the assumption that she is a human being and can take a general interest in affairs. Without unduly talking shop insinuate a little business, politics or athletics into your conversation.

**A** PROPOS of the "human being" attitude, don't stop calling on a girl or dancing with her the moment her engagement has been announced. Such a course may give people the impression that you got left.

**D**ON'T tell her beforehand that you are a poor dancer. Perhaps she can't dance either, and will never discover you.

**A**MERE wrap carrier is often welcome, but chiefly for his specialty.

**T**RY to be a member of the live-saving crew rather than a wrecker. It is usually dangerous to invade a tête-à-tête, but if her eyes wander, it is safe to plunge in.

**I**T is easy to scare a man away  
by boasting of your conquests.  
He may be loth to add a scalp to  
your collection.

**L**ET the iron hand in the velvet  
glove conceal your masculine  
superiority. Don't offer to sharpen  
pencils or stamp letters for her, im-  
plying pleasantly that women usually  
do the one with their teeth and the  
other with a shoe-horn.



**E**VEN if you were voted the handsomest man in your class, don't presume that a lady is "pinning roses on herself" simply because you are monopolizing all her calling hours. "Make good" with at least an occasional car fare or proffer of escort. Otherwise, at some psychological moment, you may find yourself taking a far back seat in favor of a homelier but wiser man.

**L**EARN a girl's little vanities and flatter her long and openly concerning them. This can be safely done for an indefinite length of time and is very taking. Unless you know her vulnerable points, however, implied compliments are safer.

**D**ON'T drop her like a hot coal  
the minute the music stops.  
Seem loath to let her go, and waltz  
a few extra steps if necessary. This  
is tremendously telling, and so easy!

**W**ORDS are cheap. When  
introduced to a girl at a  
ball, even if you decide that she  
won't do, at least remark: "May  
I have one later on?"—It makes for  
good feeling.



**U**SE but two fingers to help a lady into a car or cab, and mind, no pushing!--[This rule carried into effect makes you the third man in America who really knows how.]



**L**ET your feminine charm enhance the attractions of your athletic prowess. After a strenuous yesterday let him find you cool and dainty to-day in a muslin gown, and very feminine in manner. Heavy boots or tennis shoes alone will never take you far along the Fusser's Path.

**H**OLD off at times the little attentions which you feel are expected of you, but don't hold off too long. This rule has both a masculine and a feminine application.

**R**ESPECT her serious side (if she has one) and don't meet her fads with an amused, indulgent smile. She won't love you for that attitude of male superiority. It makes her feel that the real thing in you is lacking, and in spite of herself she loves the real thing.

**C**ULTIVATE a tact that conceals itself. If you feel that a man is caught with you at a dance don't aggravate the wound by laughing to him at the situation and yet show no inclination to find a way out of it.

**L**ET the method of fussing fit the girl. For remember all girls aren't cut from the same pattern.

**R**EMEMBER that all that chills you is not cold. In all probability she has been advised to refuse an invitation once in a while, or to be out occasionally when you call. Above all she may fear to give the impression that she is sitting at the telephone waiting for you to ring her up. Learn to distinguish between a slight frost for diplomatic reasons and the cold spell that ushers in a whole winter of discontent.

**W**ATCH how the wind blows!  
On a boat place the straight-haired damsel with her face to the breeze. This keeps her stray locks in place. She knows they are unbecoming to her, and she can enjoy you more when not worrying about her looks. The girl with curls, however, rises superior to any wind that blows; and is aware of the fact.

**M**AKE her care before you try to make her jealous.

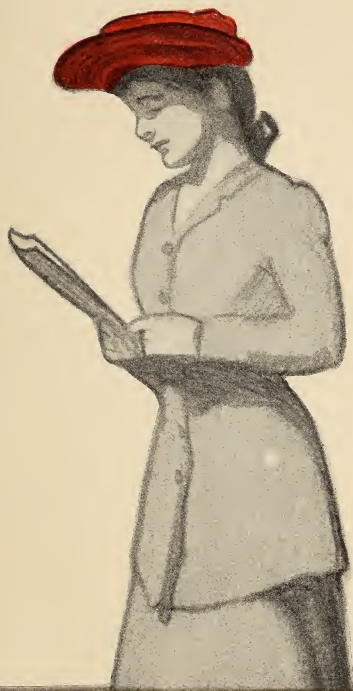


**B**E graceful as well as useful. In diving under a table at the end of a dinner, for the purpose of corralling your partner's handkerchief, gloves, smelling salts and fan, don't mar your host's mahogany by a too violent impact with your skull. It may create some temporary amusement, but detracts on the whole from your reputation as an accomplished fusser.

**D**ON'T assume that you are her only suitor. Imply rather by your general attitude that all mankind, of course, is ready to eat out of her hand. L O F G

**D**ISCRIMINATE between the false and the true. When she truly cares she is apt to appear indifferent, but she almost surely is indifferent when she appears to care.

**B**E ready to learn from any one. There are subtle depths in the gentle art of fussing which even yet may not be revealed to you. If you study the method of your best beloved you will discover things you never dreamed of before.



**FW**

**A** TOUCH of confidence adds relish to a long letter. But remember that confessions invented for the occasion are safer than real ones.



**W**HEN negotiating a difficult street corner don't grasp your fair companion by the crook of her shapely elbow and steer her in one direction if she shows any real inclination to set sail in another. The course of true love is never helped by such a crossing.

**D**ON'T think, because he sends you \$10 bunches of violets at his own free will, he enjoys being trapped into car fare and soda water.

**M**AKE up to the little sisters and all small girls. You may be able to lord it over them when you are twenty and they are only ten. But some day when they are twenty and you are thirty the tables will be turned—and they don't forget.

**N**OTICE details in a girl's looks, tastes, and frocks, and at some far future time compliment her on them. Length of memory linked with closeness of observation will doubly flatter her.

**B**E politic. When talking to one girl do not expatiate on the accomplishments of other "Pippins" and "Queens": it betrays the amateur hand.

**S**TEP carefully. Remember, when you put your foot through a lady's \$250 gown, that her sweet smile upon you is all composed of heroism and that you are lucky if she is not inwardly cursing you. Learn to gaze earnestly into your partner's eyes, at the same time that you skillfully and delicately avoid the edge of the "creation" trailing just ahead of you.

**S**TRIVE for a happy medium in seating a lady at the table. Neither be so slow that she is in danger of missing her chair, nor in such a hurry that you knock the edge of the table against her knees. The first seems to denote a vacuous mind; the last makes you appear too eager for food.

**C**ARRY yourself with confidence but not with over-assurance, remembering at the same time that almost everything is your fault.



**D**ON'T add insult to injury. It's a great mistake to try to cover up one's rudeness to a lady by an attitude of general nastiness. Almost impossible as this may be for you to grasp, she sees through your assumed attitude every time and accepts with astonishment the fact that any one can be so silly.

**D**ON'T kiss your dollar good-bye before treating your best beloved. Spend what you can afford with kingly carelessness and make up your laundry bill in another quarter.

**N**O matter what degrees of intimacy and warmth your interviews may attain, terminate them with a return to your usual conventional manner. Suggest that "it's all off" even if you intend calling her up on the 'phone within the hour. This tactic adds the two ingratiating elements of elusiveness and surprise to your intercourse.

**D**ON'T be timid about "butting-in" at a ball. No girl in this world was ever annoyed because a man made her look popular.



**H**UMOR the Athletic Girl. Make her feel that she is the one good fellow of her sex, but never imply that this masculine touch detracts from her feminine charm.



**C**ULTIVATE a breathless eagerness to learn everything about Her, whether it be her views on Browning or the kind of scent she uses, and jolly her with gentle questionings to this end. This is one of the cheapest ways for acquiring the reputation of an "interesting talker."

**D**ISCOVER fancied resemblances to celebrated actresses or professional beauties. Use the formula, "Do you know you remind me more of.....than any other woman I ever saw?" and flavor to taste.

**C**ULTIVATE desirable parlor tricks, but don't chase the monkey to his "Lehr."

**E**VERY experience is a teacher. The accomplished "Fusser" keeps you "light on your feet" while the bore develops your sustaining powers.

**A**RT is long." Rise Phoenix-like from the ashes of your failures.

**B**E not misled by sudden graciousness. Many a man imagines himself a canvas back when he is only a decoy.

**C**AST your bread upon the Débutantes and it will return after many seasons.

**V**ARY your methods; all fish will not jump at the same fly.

**D**ON'T abstract your attention when two feminine things are talking along lines not strictly your specialty, and then, when they address you for the third time, excuse yourself with the remark that you thought they were just talking to each other.

**B**E moderate in your honesty. Never enlighten a girl if she has made some mistake to your credit till discovery is imminent. Perhaps you can take the hint and earn the praise. Undeserved praise costs nothing but conscience and brings you much.



**D**ON'T take the game seriously.  
She may be only an accomplished fusser, and not really in love with you at all.

**B**E chivalrous to all, but easy to none.

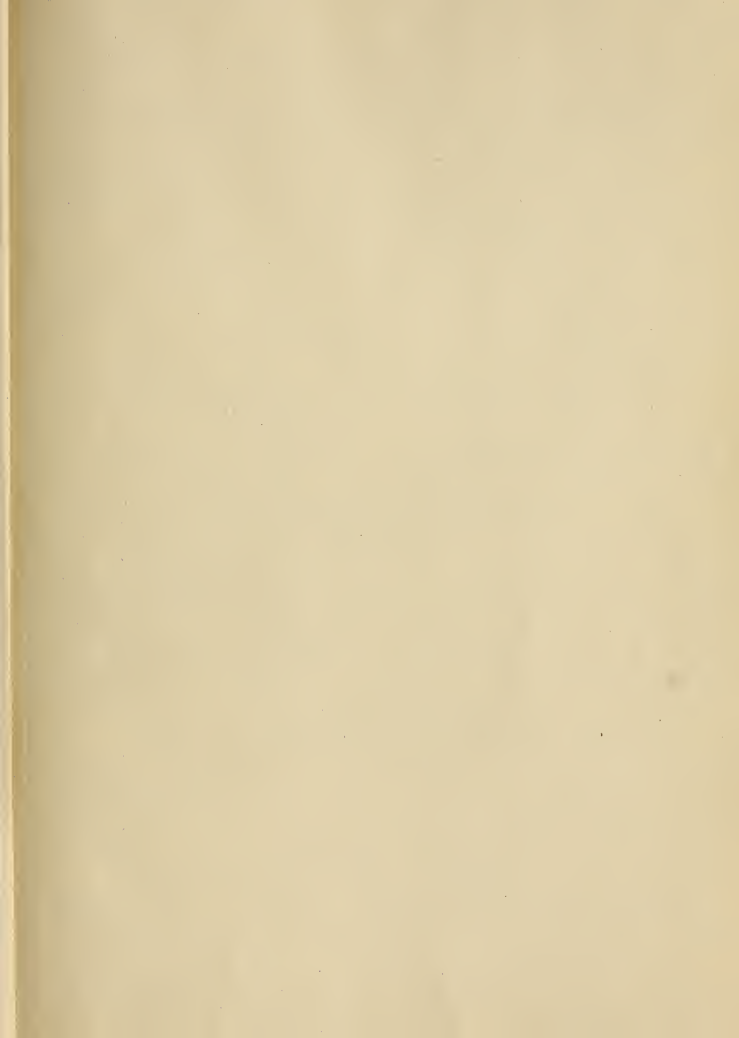
**'T**IS better to have fussed and lost than never to have fussed at all.

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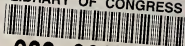








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